



CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 27, 2022

Jim Chiasson, Utilities Department Director
City of Rio Rancho
3200 Civic Circle NE
Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87144

RE: Draft Discharge Permit Modification, DP-215, City of Rio Rancho WWTF #6

Dear Jim Chiasson:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) hereby provides notice to you of the proposed approval of Ground Water Discharge Permit Modification, DP-215, (copy enclosed), pursuant to Subsection H of 20.6.2.3108 NMAC. NMED will publish notice of the availability of the draft Discharge Permit in the near future for public review and comment and will forward a copy of that notice to you.

Prior to making a final ruling on the proposed Discharge Permit, NMED will allow 30 days from the date the public notice is published in the newspaper for any interested party, including the Discharge Permit applicant, i.e., yourself, to submit written comments and/or a request a public hearing. A hearing request shall set forth the reasons why a hearing is requested. NMED will hold a hearing in response to a timely hearing request if the NMED Secretary determines there is substantial public interest in the proposed Discharge Permit.

Please review the enclosed draft Discharge Permit Modification carefully. Please be aware that this Discharge Permit Modification only includes the introductory sections and any modified or new conditions related to the modification. The original Discharge Permit (issued September 3, 2021) may contain conditions that require the permittee to implement operational, monitoring or closure actions by a specified deadline.

Please submit written comments or a request for hearing to my attention at the address above or via email to lynette.guevara@state.nm.us. If NMED does not receive written comments or a request for hearing during the public comment period, the draft Discharge Permit will become final.

Thank you for your cooperation during the review process. Feel free to contact me with any questions at (505) 629-8811.

Sincerely,

Lynette Guevara
PPS Reuse Team Leader

Encl: Draft Discharge Permit Modification, DP-215



**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Ground Water Quality Bureau

1190 Saint Francis Drive / PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
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**GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU
DISCHARGE PERMIT
Issued under 20.6.2 NMAC**

Facility Name: City of Rio Rancho Wastewater Treatment Facility #6
Discharge Permit Number: DP-215
Facility Location: 2400 Westside Ct. SE
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

County: Sandoval

Permittee: City of Rio Rancho
Mailing Address: 3200 Civic Circle NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Facility Contact: Jim Chiasson, Utilities Department Director
Telephone Number/Email: 505-836-8736/ jchaisson@rrnm.gov

Permitting Action: Modification

Permit Issuance Date: **DATE**
Permit Expiration Date: September 2, 2026

NMED Permit Contact: Lynette Guevara
Telephone Number/Email: 505-629-8811 / lynette.guevara@state.nm.us

JUSTIN D. BALL
Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department

Date

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ATTACHMENTS

Discharge Permit Summary

draft

I. INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issues this groundwater discharge permit Modification (Discharge Permit or DP-215) to the City of Rio Rancho (Permittee) pursuant to the New Mexico Water Quality Act (WQA), NMSA 1978 §§74-6-1 through 74-6-17, and the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations, 20.6.2 NMAC.

NMED's purpose in issuing this Discharge Permit Modification, and in imposing the requirements and conditions specified herein, is to control the discharge of water contaminants from City of Rio Rancho Wastewater Treatment Facility #6 (Facility) in order to protect groundwater and those segments of surface water gaining from groundwater inflow for present and potential future use as domestic and agricultural water supply and other uses, and to protect public health. It is NMED's determination in issuing this Discharge Permit Modification that the Permittee has met the requirements of Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC. The Permittee is responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of this Discharge Permit pursuant to Section 20.6.2.3104 NMAC; failure to do so may result in enforcement action by NMED (20.6.2.1220 NMAC).

Described below are the activities that produce the discharge, the location of the discharge, and the quantity, quality and flow characteristics.

The Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF #6) is permitted to treat up to 1.8 million gallons per day (MGD) of domestic wastewater and transfer of up to 1.8 million gallons per day of treated wastewater (reclaimed domestic wastewater) to entities for reuse governed by separate reuse end user discharge permits issued by NMED.

Treated wastewater (reclaimed domestic wastewater) stores in a reclaimed wastewater storage tank and then discharges to several locations (reuse areas) including entities governed by separate reuse end user discharge permits, a distribution system for irrigation at various sites within and owned by the City of Rio Rancho, and for temporary uses in and around the City of Rio Rancho including, but not limited to, dust control and construction purposes. The authorized delivery point for these temporary discharges is a standpipe/hydrant located at the Facility and other hydrants located within and under the control of the City of Rio Rancho. Treated wastewater from the Facility may be diverted and comingled with wastewater from WWTF #2 and discharged to the Rio Grande River in accordance with NPDES permit NM002987.

The original Discharge Permit modification consists of the elimination or closure of wastewater treatment facilities #1, #2 and #3. Previous Discharge Permits allowed for irrigation for the Vista Verde Memorial Park. The Vista Verde Memorial Park is no longer receiving reuse water for irrigation and the associated Discharge Permit (DP-140) has been terminated.

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The second Discharge Permit Modification consists of the authorization to transfer of up to 1.8 million gallons per day of treated wastewater (reclaimed domestic wastewater) for reuse to entities governed by separate reuse end user discharge permits. NMED has also opted to remove specific references to reuse end user discharge permits DP-1650 and DP-1629 which are now covered under the modified authorizations.

The discharge may contain water contaminants or toxic pollutants elevated above the standards of Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC and is not subject to the exemption at Subsection 20.6.2.3105.A NMAC.

The Facility is located at 2400 Westside Court SE in Rio Rancho, in Sections 21 and 36 Township 12N Range 3E, 2E in Sandoval County. A discharge at the Facility is most likely to affect groundwater at a depth of approximately 15-300 feet and having a pre-discharge total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of approximately 245 value milligrams per liter.

NMED issued the original Discharge Permit to the Permittee August 16, 1982 and subsequently renewed and modified the Permit on May 14, 1987; modified the Permit on December 2, 1988; renewed the Permit on July 2, 1992; renewed and modified the Permit on July 23, 1999; amended the Permit on March 13, 2000 and January 3, 2002; renewed and modified the Permit December 12, 2005; renewed and modified the Permit on December 11, 2015 and renewed and modified the permit on September 3, 2021. The application (i.e., discharge plan) associated with this Discharge Permit modification consists of the materials submitted by Permittee dated February 17, 2022, and materials contained in the administrative record prior to issuance of this Discharge Permit.

The Permittee shall manage the discharge in accordance with all conditions and requirements of this Discharge Permit.

NMED reserves the right to require a Discharge Permit modification in the event NMED determines that the Permittee is or may be violating, or is likely to violate in the future, the requirements of 20.6.2 NMAC or the standards of Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC. NMED reserves this right pursuant to Section 20.6.2.3109 NMAC. An NMED requirement to modify the Discharge Permit may result from a determination by the department that structural controls and/or management practices approved under this Discharge Permit are insufficiently protective of groundwater quality and human health. NMED reserves the right to require the Permittee implement abatement of water pollution and remediate groundwater quality.

NMED issuance of this Discharge Permit Modification does not relieve the Permittee of the responsibility to comply with the WQA, WQCC Regulations, and any other applicable federal, state and/or local laws and regulations, such as zoning requirements and nuisance ordinances.

This Discharge Permit may use the following acronyms and abbreviations.

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Abbreviation	Explanation	Abbreviation	Explanation
BOD ₅	biochemical oxygen demand (5-day)	NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
CAP	Corrective Action Plan	NMSA	New Mexico Statutes Annotated
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NO ₃ -N	nitrate-nitrogen
CFU	colony forming unit	NTU	nephelometric turbidity units
Cl	chloride	QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency	TDS	total dissolved solids
Gpd	gallons per day	TKN	total Kjeldahl nitrogen
LAA	land application area	total nitrogen	= TKN + NO ₃ -N
LADS	Land Application Data Sheet(s)	TRC	total residual chlorine
mg/L	milligrams per liter	TSS	total suspended solids
mL	milliliters	WQA	New Mexico Water Quality Act
MPN	most probable number	WQCC	Water Quality Control Commission
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code	WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facility

II. FINDINGS

In issuing this Discharge Permit, NMED finds the following.

1. The Permittee is discharging effluent or leachate from the Facility so that such effluent or leachate may move into groundwater of the State of New Mexico that has an existing concentration of 10,000 mg/L or less of TDS, within the meaning of Subsection A of 20.6.2.3101 NMAC, without exceeding standards of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC for any water contaminant.
2. The Permittee is discharging effluent or leachate from the Facility directly or indirectly into groundwater pursuant to this Discharge Permit and Sections 20.6.2.3000 through 20.6.2.3114 NMAC.

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3. The discharge from the Facility is not subject to any of the exemptions of Section 20.6.2.3105 NMAC.

III. AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE

The Permittee is responsible for ensuring that discharges authorized by this Discharge Permit are consistent with the terms and conditions herein pursuant to 20.6.2.3104 NMAC.

This Discharge Permit authorizes the Permittee to receive and treat up to 1.8 MGD of domestic wastewater using a WWTF. This Discharge Permit also authorizes the Permittee to discharge reclaimed wastewater to several locations (reuse areas): a distribution system for irrigation at various sites within and owned by the City of Rio Rancho; and for temporary uses in and around the City of Rio Rancho including, but not limited to, dust control and construction purposes. The authorized delivery point for temporary uses is a standpipe/hydrant located at the Facility and other hydrants located within and under the control of the City of Rio Rancho.

This Discharge Permit authorizes the Permittee to transfer reclaimed domestic wastewater to other entities authorized by NMED under separate Discharge Permits.

[20.6.2.3104 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3106 NMAC, Subsection D of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]

Issuance Date: **DATE****IV. CONDITIONS**

NMED issues this Discharge Permit for the discharge of water contaminants subject to the following conditions.

A. OPERATIONAL PLAN***Operating Conditions (modified)***

#	Terms and Conditions																
1.	<p>The Permittee is authorized to discharge Class 1A reclaimed wastewater to the following areas and to transfer reclaimed domestic wastewater to other entities authorized by NMED under separate Discharge Permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For temporary uses, such as dust control and construction purposes via standpipes/hydrants located at the Facility and various locations with the City of Rio Rancho;• Distribution system for irrigation including but not limited to the following sites with and owned by the City of Rio Rancho: <table><tr><th>Discharge Location:</th><th>Township:</th><th>Range:</th><th>Section</th></tr><tr><td>Rio Rancho Sports Complex</td><td>T12N</td><td>R3E</td><td>19, 20</td></tr><tr><td>Cabazon subdivision, including cabezon Park, Cabezon Linear Park and road medians</td><td>T12N</td><td>R2E</td><td>25, 26, 35 and 36</td></tr><tr><td>Nicklaus Park</td><td>T12N</td><td>R2E</td><td>25</td></tr></table>	Discharge Location:	Township:	Range:	Section	Rio Rancho Sports Complex	T12N	R3E	19, 20	Cabazon subdivision, including cabezon Park, Cabezon Linear Park and road medians	T12N	R2E	25, 26, 35 and 36	Nicklaus Park	T12N	R2E	25
Discharge Location:	Township:	Range:	Section														
Rio Rancho Sports Complex	T12N	R3E	19, 20														
Cabazon subdivision, including cabezon Park, Cabezon Linear Park and road medians	T12N	R2E	25, 26, 35 and 36														
Nicklaus Park	T12N	R2E	25														

Operating Conditions (new condition)

#	Terms and Conditions						
2.	<p>The Permittee shall ensure that any Class 2 reclaimed domestic wastewater transferred to other entities authorized by NMED under separate Discharge Permits does not exceed the following discharge limits:</p> <table><tr><th><u>Test</u></th><th><u>30-day Average</u></th><th><u>Maximum</u></th></tr><tr><td>Fecal Coliform</td><td>200 CFU/100 mL</td><td>400 CFU/100 mL</td></tr></table>	<u>Test</u>	<u>30-day Average</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	Fecal Coliform	200 CFU/100 mL	400 CFU/100 mL
<u>Test</u>	<u>30-day Average</u>	<u>Maximum</u>					
Fecal Coliform	200 CFU/100 mL	400 CFU/100 mL					

Issuance Date: **DATE**

#	Terms and Conditions		
	BOD ₅	30 mg/L	45 mg/L
	TSS:	30 mg/L	45 mg/L
	UV Transmissivity	Monitor Only	Monitor Only
	[Subsections B and C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.D]		



New Mexico Environment Department Ground Water Quality Bureau Discharge Permit Summary

Facility Information

Facility Name
Discharge Permit Number

City of Rio Rancho WWTF #6
DP-215

Legally Responsible Party

Jim Chiasson, Utilities Department Director
City of Rio Rancho
3200 Civic Circle, NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144
505-836-8736/jchiasson@rrnm.gov

Treatment, Disposal and Site Information

Primary Waste Type
Facility Type

Domestic
Wastewater Treatment Facility

Treatment Methods

Type	Designation	Description & Comments
Wastewater Treatment System	WWTF #6 (Cabezon)	Receives effluent from Lift station 24 and 27; Pump to design with split recycle flows. MBR system. Flow can be diverted via Lift station #24 back to WWTP #2 for reuse governed by separate discharge permits, or for comingling/final discharge through NPDES permit in an emergency,

Discharge Locations

Type	Designation	Description & Comments
Temporary Uses	Temporary uses	Dust control and construction purposes via stand-pipes/hydrants within the city of Rio Rancho
Reuse Area	Reuse area	Rio Rancho Sports Complex; Class 1A
Reuse Area	Re-use area	Cabezon Subdivision, including Cabezon Park, Cabezon Linear Park, and road medians; Class 1A
Reuse Area	Reuse area	Nicklaus Park; Class 1A
Additional reuses	Separate DPs	As governed by separate discharge permits

Flow Metering Locations

Type	Designation	Description & Comments
Promag Meter (W)	Influent	Manhole southwest of headworks; pumped; closed piped
Promag Meter (L)	Effluent Permeate	Reuse Pump Room; Pumped; Closed Piped
Promag Meter (W)	Effluent	Manhole West of Effluent Tank; Gravity; Closed Piped
Totalizing flow meter	Effluent	Transfer line from standpipe to other entities for the use of concrete production.

Depth-to-Ground Water
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)

15-300 feet
245 mg/L



New Mexico Environment Department Ground Water Quality Bureau Discharge Permit Summary

Permit Information

Original Permit Issued	August 16, 1982
Permit Renewal and Modification	May 14, 1987
Permit Modification	December 2, 1988
Permit Renewal	July 2, 1992
Permit Renewal and Modification:	July 23, 1999
Permit Amendment:	March 13, 2000
Permit Amendment:	January 3, 2002
Permit Renewal and Modification:	December 12, 2005
Permit Renewal and Modification:	December 11, 2015
Permit Renewal and Modification:	September 3, 2021

Current Action	Modification
Application Received	February 19, 2022
Public Notice Published	DATE
Permit Issued (Effective Date)	DATE
Permitted Discharge Volume	1.8 MGD

NMED Contact Information

Mailing Address	Ground Water Quality Bureau P.O. Box 5469 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469
GWQB Telephone Number	(505) 827-2900
NMED Lead Staff	Lynette Guevara
Lead Staff Telephone Number	(505) 629-8811
Lead Staff Email	lynette.guevara@state.nm.us